Poquoson snowed under
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YORK TOWN CRIER

THE POQUOSON POST

January 9 - January 15, 2002 YORKTOWN & POQUOSON, VIRGINIA **Price: 50 cents**

In Brief

55/Alive driving class offered

AARP will offer its 55/Alive Mature Driving Program on Monday, Jan. 14, from 12:45 to 4:45 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 15, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., at the Senior Center of York.

Participants must attend both classes to receive a mandated three-year automobile insurance reduction.

Cost of the program is $10 and must be paid by check made out to AARP.

Registration, which closes Wednesday, Jan. 9, may be made at the Senior Center of York, located at Washington Square Shopping Center in Grafton.

For information, call 898-3807.

York, Poquoson receive grants

York County has received $7,500 and Poquoson $6,000 in U. S. Department of Transportation grants which will be distributed through the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

Virginia is one of 27 states selected to receive $2.9 million in fiscal year 2001 as part of the Transportation Equity Act. The award resulted from Virginia's commitment to the .08 Blood Alcohol Content law and its aggressive enforcement through well-coordinated traffic safety programs, high visibility enforcement and pubic awareness campaigns. Virginia will also receive an estimated $3.2 million federal safety grant to fund local and statewide highway safety projects.

The funds can be used by localities to create solutions to their own unique community safety issues. They can also be used for law enforcement efforts, public awareness campaigns, traffic enforcement equipment purchases, testing and other projects.

VPPSA offers recycling update

The Virginia Peninsulas Public Service Authority reminds customers that plastic bags are not accepted in the recycling program. Plastic bags and their contents will not be picked up in curbside collections.

The following materials are accepted in the curbside program: newspapers and inserts; corrugated cardboard, flattened and no larger than 3'X4'; metals, aluminum and steel/tin food and beverage cans; #1 and #2 plastic bottles, only those with a neck or pouring spout; household papers, including junk mail and telephone books; clear, green and brown glass bottles, with lids removed and discarded.

Sorting is not necessary.

Wet papers can be collected, although it is better if they are kept dry.

For more information, York County residents can call 890-3780 and Poquoson residents can call 868-3598.

The York Town Crier and The Poquoson Post are printed on recycled paper.

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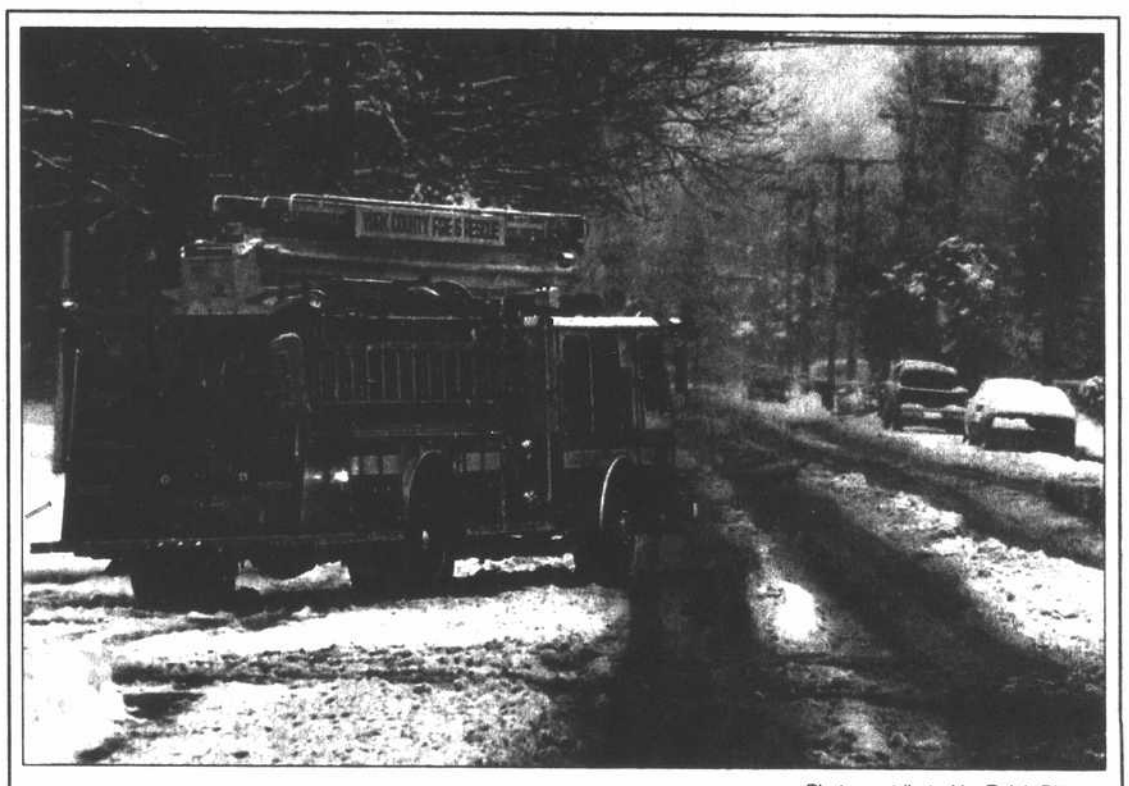
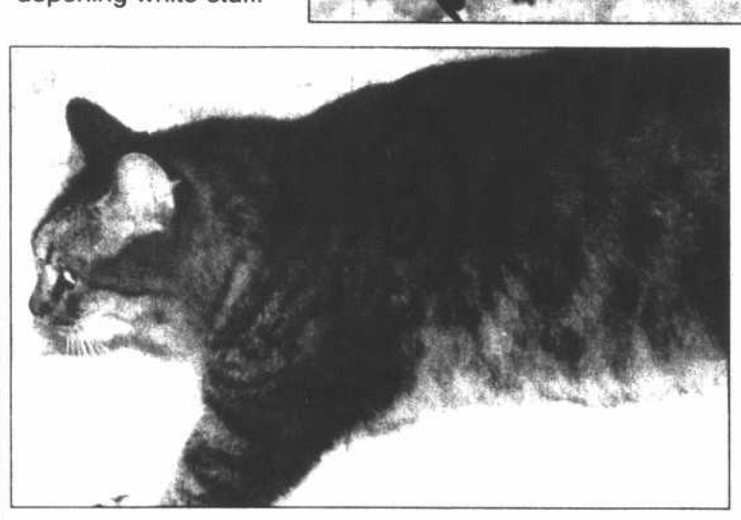


Photo contributed by Ralph Pittman

Old Man Winter

The New Year started with a heavy dose of snow which closed roads and schools last week. And while it was pretty to look at, the deep snow made for messy driving, even for the big guys, as shown above. At right, a fern, confused into early growth by the recent warm spell, struggles against the elements. Below right, a happy squirrel chomps away on a peanut put out by a sympathetic human. Below left, a miserable cat navigates through the depening white stuff.



Crier, Post join forces

By Beth Meisner
Town Crier staff

"It is definitely an idea whose time has come - again," Wayne Meisner, publisher of the York Town Crier and The Poquoson Post said of the decision to merge the two community papers under one masthead. Effective this week, the two publications will appear together in an enhanced product that will offer more to subscribers of each.

"Yes, you can make a good argument for each community having its own local newspaper and, at the same time, you can make a good argument for combining these two particular communities into one paper," Meisner said. In its infancy, the York Town Crier had pages dedicated to Poquoson news, and The Post itself was a spin-off from the Crier back in 1988.

"York County and Poquoson are a logical fit," Meisner said, noting that the two jurisdictions used to be a single political entity. "They fit historically, they fit geographically, they fit economically and they fit socially in many ways," he said.

"York County and Poquoson share numerous organizations and agencies," he added, referring to courts, Social Services and the Sheriff's Department. Portions of York County and Poquoson also share representation in both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate, and both are represented by the same Congresswoman, Jo Ann Davis, in Washington.

"York County and Poquoson are a logical fit."

Wayne Meisner
Publisher

And those are just some of the "officials" ways the two communities share. Both York and Poquoson enjoy a high median family income, both are home to large military and professional populations, both have excellent school districts and their high and middle schools compete in the Bay Rivers District.

And then there are the people.

"Old-timers" in both communities are bound by blood and marriage to each other, and newcomers find friends on both sides of the border. Poquoson

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Chairman Don Wiggins

Vice Chairman Walt Zaremba

Wiggins elected Supervisors' chair

By Beth Meisner
Town Crier staff

Don Wiggins, who represents York County's District 3 on the Board of Supervisors, has been elected to chair that body for 2002.

Wiggins, who served as vice chairman for 2001, moved up to the head spot by a 4-1 vote of his peers on Jan. 2. Without comment, Sheila Noll cast the lone dissenting vote.

Wiggins was elected to the Board of Supervisors in 1999. He has been particularly active on drainage matters and chairs a county-wide drainage study committee.

At the same meeting, District 1's Walt Zaremba was elected vice chairman. Zaremba, who was first elected to the Board in 1995, was chairman in 2000.

Lawmakers head to Richmond

By Beth Meisner
Town Crier staff

It's called a "long session" - and, boy, is it apt to be just that. The Virginia General Assembly convenes Wednesday, Jan. 9, for a 60-day session, which will be dominated by budget issues.

It isn't going to be pretty. When things wrap up next month, legislators are going to know they've been to Richmond.

The national economy is on the skids and so is the state's, and lawmakers this year are going to have to figure out how to close a $1.3 billion dollar gap between now and June 30.

And that's just for the current fiscal year. Then they going to have to draft a budget for 2002-2004 - and they already know they're probably facing a $2.3 billion deficit in those years.

Add to that the fact that Republicans control the Senate and the House of Delegates and Democrats control the State House, and we're probably looking at a heated session.

York County and Poquoson have four representatives going to Richmond. Committee assignments for the 2002 session had not been made at press time. York and Poquoson's elected state officials are:

•Sen. Marty Williams, First District, represents Poquoson,

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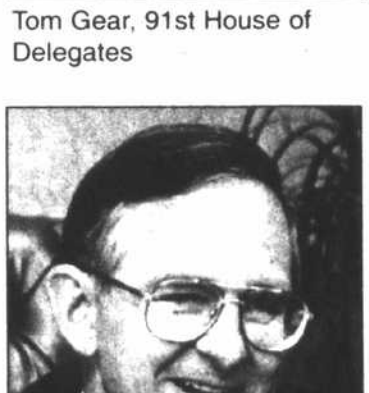
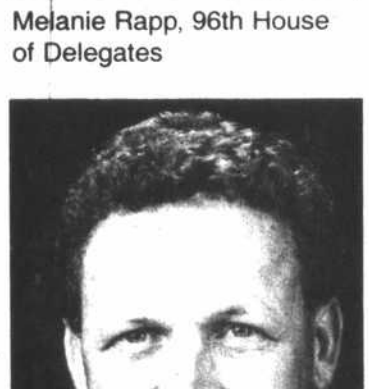
Tom Gear, 91st House of Delegates

Melanie Rapp, 96th House of Delegates



Sen. Tommy Norment, 3rd District



Sen. Marty Williams 1st District

Sheriff's office seeks info on recent crimes

The York County Sheriff's Office is requesting information on the identity of the person(s) who committed the following crimes :

•Sometime unknown between Thursday, Dec. 13 and Friday, Dec. 14, 2001, someone forced entry to several work vans parked in front of Old Towne Electric on Merrimac trail in the Bruton district of York County.

The supects caused damage to the vehicles and stole hand tools valued at approximately $400 to $500.

•On Thursday, Dec. 27, at 5:25 p.m., an unknown white male suspect stole a red bass guitar valued at $400 to $500 dollars from Pro Music and Sound on Rt. 17 in the Tabb area of York County.

The suspect was described as a white male 25-30 years old 5'8" tall, weighing approximately 180 pounds. He has short black hair was clean shaven, wearing glasses and a long black trench coat.

He was observed leaving the scene in a red Jeep Cherokee driven by a white female. The license plate is unknown, and there were two children in the car as well.

Anyone having information about this crime or any other crime is asked to call Crime Line at 1-888-LOCK-U-UP. Crime Line will pay a cash reward of up to $1000.

Callers are reminded that they do not have to give theirname or testify in court.